# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3804
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2015
Distribution of Food
Sanghamita Dr.(Smt.) Mamtaz

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has formulated any schemes regarding, procurement and distribution of foodgrains, pulses and oil seeds/edible oils to the poor in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the role played by the Union Government therein;
(c) whether there is any policy regarding export of surplus stocks held by the Government; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a) & (b): There is a Uniform Policy for procurement by Government Agencies across the country. Under this policy, whatever foodgrains are offered by farmers, within the stipulated period and which conform to the specifications prescribed by Government of India are purchased at Minimum Support Price (MSP) by the Government agencies including Food Corporation of India (FCI) for central pool. However, if any producer/farmer gets better price in comparison to MSP, he is free to sell his produce in Open market i.e. to private trader/ anyone. Government of India (GOI) declares MSP for each season to incentivize the farmers.
As decided by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), the Government agencies including FCI is also procuring pulses and oil seeds at market price under Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) operation during Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2015-16 for maintaining their buffer stock. The DAC&FW has released Rs. 50 Crores for such procurement. It has also been decided that if market prices of pulses fall below the MSP, FCI shall procure pulses at MSP from the farmers under the Price Support Scheme of the DAC&FW.
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Govt. of India through its various schemes viz. Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) {Above Poverty Line (APL), Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)}, Mid-Day Meal, Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for empowerment of adolescent girls (RGSEAG) i.e. SABLA, Nutrition Programme, Hostels & Welfare Institutions etc. has been making allotment of foodgrains to all the States/UTs at subsidized central issue prices to provide foodgrains as such or processed items to the targeted beneficiaries, who are largely belonging to BPL families, to cater to their food requirement. To further enlarge the coverage of TPDS, the GOI has implemented National Food Security Act (NFSA) in July 2013 and by now 25 States have been covered under NFSA. Under NFSA, the identified beneficiaries relating to priority group, which are mainly from BPL and AAY families, are issued rice, wheat, and coarse grains at a very highly subsidized rate of Rs.3/2/1 per kg respectively.
Central Government does not have any scheme for distribution of pulses and oilseeds/edible oil to the poor in the country. However, some State/UT Governments are selling pulses and/or edible oil as non PDS items through their Fair Price Shops.
(c) & (d): Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its decision dated 16.01.2015 approved that the stock of foodgrains in excess of the revised buffer norms might be offloaded through open sale in domestic market or through export. A committee was constituted consisting of Secretary, F&PD, Secretary, Expenditure and Secretary Consumer Affairs to recommend the quantity and the price for this purpose. However, at present, there is no such proposal for export of wheat or rice from Central Pool.
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